



ORIGINAL

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

Division

93-04998

CC DKT 96-45

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RECEIVED

SEP 18 1998

Mr. A. M. Marzano
100 Mirada Road
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Marzano:

Thank you for your electronic mail message to President Clinton regarding a line item that has been added by your carrier to your telephone bill to recover its contributions to the universal service support mechanisms. The White House has asked me to respond to your inquiry.

On May 7, 1997, the Commission adopted an Order to implement the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendations on universal service as required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act). The Commission established universal service support mechanisms that fulfill Congress's goal, as stated in Section 254 of the 1996 Act, of ensuring that affordable, quality telecommunications services are available to all American consumers, including low income consumers and those located in high cost, rural, and insular areas. Universal service support for carriers serving high cost areas and for low income consumers has been provided for decades. In the 1996 Act, Congress expanded universal service goals to ensure the nation's classrooms and libraries receive access to the vast array of educational resources that are accessible through the telecommunications network. These support systems also will link health care providers located in rural areas to urban medical centers so that patients living in rural America will have access, through the telecommunications network, to the same advanced diagnostic and other medical services that are enjoyed in urban communities.

In the 1996 Act, Congress required all telecommunications carriers that provide interstate telecommunications services to contribute on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis to universal service. The Commission implemented this statutory provision by requiring all such telecommunications carriers to contribute to the universal service support mechanisms. Neither Congress, nor the Commission, requires such carriers to pass this contribution on to their customers. To the contrary, carriers decide how and to what extent they recover their contributions. Carriers, however, may not mislead customers as to how they recover contributions and may only recover an equitable share from any particular customer.

The Commission is monitoring the universal service support mechanisms and their impact on telephone ratepayers. This issue will be carefully reviewed as the support mechanisms are administered.

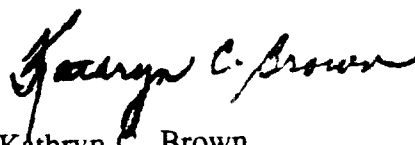
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Mr. A. M. Marzano

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Your letter has been placed in the official public record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45). I appreciate your interest and views on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathryn C. Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kathryn C. Brown
Chief
Common Carrier Bureau

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

CCB
96-45
4998
4-3-58
DATE

MEMORANDUM FOR: FCC

FROM: SUE J. SMITH *sgs*
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF AGENCY LIAISON

SUBJECT: REFERRAL OF WHITE HOUSE BULK MAIL

Thank you for your continued hard work in ensuring responses to the Presidential letters and inquiries forwarded to your agency. The volume of mail that the President and Mrs. Clinton receive still remains unprecedented.

Please return any misreferrals to me at the following address:

Ms. Sue J. Smith
Director, Office of Agency Liaison
Room 6, OEOB
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 202/456-7486.

Thank you very much.

~~Handwritten: FCC~~
From Ammarzano@aol.com Thu Feb 26 18:36:28 1998
Date: Thu, 26 Feb 1998 18:34:26 -0500 (EST)
From: Ammarzano <Ammarzano@aol.com>
Subject: FCC-Universal Service Fund
To: President@WhiteHouse.GOV
Cc: Annagram@hr.house.gov, talk2tom@hr.house.gov
Message-id: <309ff99b.34f5fc05@aol.com>

Dear Mr. President :

CC:Rep.Ashoo and Rep.Lantos

A surcharge of 4.9% on one's telephone bill is especially unfair to those with families and freinds at a long distance. Further, this is no way to provide service to low income and rural users as well as to school, library and health care provider Internet users. There is absolutely no correlation between these services and an ordinary citizens phone bill.

Instead, let us call a spade a spade. We have scads of programs from our tax dollars. Let's add these to the list so all can help support them and still balance the budget! As it is now, it is an "unfair" hidden tax aimed at those who need to use the telephone more than average because of their family situation. That doesn't seem right to me, nor should it to you with Chelsea now at Stanford.

Your consideration of the foregoing would be sincerely appreciated.

A.M.Marzano
100 Mirada rd
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019